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# the REA lineman

Rural Electrification Administration

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D. C.

## MANY LINEMEN AID REA CO-OPS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK, HELP TO GET NEW MEMBERS

Linemen are more than their name implies--they are the outposts of the REA program--they maintain constant contact with the co-op membership--they are called on repeatedly to answer questions. And, in the great majority of cases, the linemen are the best public relations representatives the co-op has.

It is gratifying to report many linemen are aiding the co-ops in showing members how they can best use electricity. Linemen also are aiding in getting new members.

Linemen of REA systems, therefore, will be interested to know that with \$100,000,000 available for loans in fiscal 1942, indications are that REA will take an increasingly important part in the nation's defense program in these ways:

1. By making power available to army camps and other military establishments.
2. By facilitating the production of foodstuffs.
3. By serving more and a greater variety of rural industries with power than ever before.

The next twelve months, too, will see the number of consumers on REA-financed lines exceed 1,000,000. As of March 1, 1941, there were 709,578 consumers. With new line construction proceeding at a record-breaking rate and with new members being added to the 281,231 miles of line already energized it is expected that the 1,000,000 mark will be reached next February.

There is ample indication in REA files that linemen have made important contributions to the development of the entire REA program.

## SHOULD HAVE APPOINTED FOREMAN SAYS OKLA 22 COTTON SUPERINTENDENT IN REPORTING TWO ACCIDENTS

C. W. Cox, superintendent of Okla 22 Cotton, in reporting two electrical accident, states:

"There is possibly one thing that I should have done myself that would have helped to prevent these accidents--and that is I should have made one man foreman--and made him responsible for the men and equipment.

"By doing this, it is possible that he would have seen to it that the men wore their rubber gloves and followed safety precautions at all times. As it was, these men were experienced linemen on hot line work and I did not think it necessary to make one of them the foreman. They were old enough and had enough experience that they should have taken the responsibility themselves."



## LINEMAN SUFFERS FROZEN FEET IS DISABLED FOR FOURTEEN WEEKS

Linemen, generally speaking, do not consider cold as perilous. But well it may be. A letter from Matt O. Wilson, manager of Minn. 10 Carlton, tells of the case of John Lammi, who suffered frozen feet while working for this REA system last winter. He received compensation for fourteen weeks and five days of total disability.

In addition to this, he received compensation for 50% disability to the second toe of his left foot. This illustrates the danger of frozen feet.



## THE REA LINEMAN

Published Monthly in the Interest of  
Safety of Employes of REA Systems.

David A. Fleming, Editor

### TRAINING AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

In this issue of the REA LINEMAN is a story telling of the value of First Aid training in the bombed areas of Europe.

There is an important lesson here for all linemen of REA systems. It is: The better prepared we are, the more valuable we are to National Defense.

### REA AND FAIR LABOR STANDARDS

Labor and the cooperatives are working together with a high degree of harmony. Very few conflicts have arisen either in construction or operation and in the whole history of REA, no interruptions of service have occurred as a result of labor difficulties. This favorable condition may be attributed to the recognition of the pioneer nature of rural electric enterprises and the need for cooperation of all parties.

The REA has promoted fair labor standards in the work of construction and operation throughout the country and improvements have taken place steadily. This evidence of progress toward higher standards has been an important factor in the good relationships which exist.

### SALT TABLETS

Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are more prevalent in some climates than in others. Heavy work during abnormally high temperatures in generating plants and on construction operations and every day maintenance work are the main causes of "being overcome by the heat."

A contributory cause of heat exhaustion has been found to be depletion of the body's salt supply through perspiration. Salt is essential to health. The human body is about 80 per cent water, and salt is important in helping keep the necessary amount of water in various parts of the body.

We recommend that salt tablets of standard manufacture, of ten or fifteen grain sizes, be provided to employes of REA systems.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is gratifying to the REA LINEMAN to continue to receive many letters evidencing interest in this publication. W. A. Dallman, superintendent of Wisc. 29 Clarke, writes:

"Because we feel that the REA LINEMAN fills the long felt need, we want to hand a copy to each of our linemen. Won't you therefore increase the number being sent to us to eight? We insist that all linemen read the publication."

Quite a few REA systems have asked for additional copies of the REA LINEMAN which we are glad to supply.

D. C. Kallal, superintendent of Ill. 49 Madison, writes:

"We read every word of the REA LINEMAN and believe it is a great help in our work. Could we have four copies instead of three so that one of our linemen will not have to return his copy to the office."

J. Harry Halpert, manager of the Colquitt (Georgia) County Cooperative at Moultrie, writes:

"We are receiving three copies each of your monthly publication REA LINEMAN and find them most helpful in calling our attention to the importance of safety. Inasmuch as we have four linemen, we would appreciate your sending us four or five copies of each issue."

Paul R. Kuhn of Pennsylvania Edison Company, Altoona, writes:

"Thank you for the copies of the REA LINEMAN. You are to be commended for starting this publication and I will be much interested to have you keep me on your mailing list for future copies."

The editor of the REA LINEMAN is anxious to get as many contributions to this publication as possible. No publication is any better than its contributors.

Meta Stember, staff artist of the REA LINEMAN, says she wishes some of the REA systems would contribute pictures.

That is a good idea too. However, the only pictures which could be reproduced in the REA LINEMAN are line drawings. Photographs will have to wait until we grow up and "get printed"



## (MAN) POWER LOSS

These Accidents Were Reported To  
REA During May

### DEAD

Tom Marley

Laborer employed by Tenn. 1 Meigs

Frank Pyke

Employee, Monroe Electric Co., Boyne  
City, Michigan

George Gregovich

Employee, Minn. 81 Aiken

Henry Haag

Employee of Moving Contractor, killed  
on lines of Wash. 36 Adams

### DISABLED

#### REA SYSTEM EMPLOYEES

Del. 2 Sussex--W. Sullivan-hand, leg  
burned

Pa. 13 Tioga--P. J. Wolz - knee cut

Ga. 67 Bacon--J. D. Thornton - electric  
shock

Ill. 2 Wayne--G. Abbott-electric shock;  
face, hands, burned; jaw bone broken

Ill. 38 McLean--A. J. Fry, cut foot

Minn. 98 Itasca--M. B. Peabody-electric  
shock; right arm burned; may be  
amputated.

Mo. 31 Miss.-P.W. Eging, Roy Price,  
W.S. Simpson; hurt in auto accident

Okla. 21 Wash.--W. Cooper; both legs  
broken while loading poles

Tex. 23 McCulloch--O. Barsch, hurt in fall

Tex. 99 Jones-W. Beedeker, dropped  
transformer on foot, bone broken

### DISABLED

#### CONTRACTORS' EMPLOYEES

Cahill-Mooney Const. Co., Butte, Mont.,  
Joe Root, fingers, foot burned

Elkhorn Const. Co., Cawker City, Kan.,  
Bruno Pauken--thorn in hand

Franzen Bros., Palisade, Minn.-Oscar  
Hron, foot crushed; Harold Nordby,  
fingers, feet, burned from live wire

Killoren Elec. Co., Appleton, Wis., J.

D. Rudd, dislocated arm; J.W. Kell, leg

Little Elec. Co., Hartsville, S.C.;

P. Phillips, wrist cut; James

Campbell, leg cut

Wanamaker & Wells, Lake City, Fla.

W. Cunningham, toe mashed

## CONTRACTOR'S EMPLOYEE KILLED AS HE TOUCHES LIVE WIRE DURING MOVING OF HOUSE

Henry Haag, 33, a contractor's employee, was killed recently on the lines of Wash. 36 Adams, while he was moving a small wooden schoolhouse.

Harry Hudlow, superintendent of the REA system, in reporting the fatality, states:

"We had been called on the day before this accident to let down two overhead guys. We had been called again early on the same morning of the accident to let the house through. Of course, we cooperated gladly.

"Upon being informed by the moving contractor that he was needed no more, the lineman left and went to other duties. About 11:15 A.M. a member

called and said that the building contractor's employees had come to a crossing under the REA line where he thought he had plenty of clearance. When he found he did not have clearance, he acted against our instructions and against the advice of two others there and took a short handled dust mop and attempted to lift the neutral to clear the roof.

"In doing this, he somehow established contact with the top wire and made a thorough enough contact to blow an ampere branch fuse. He fell to the roof and rolled down and was caught at the ground by two men who happened to be there to break the fall."

One man knew about artificial respiration and started to work immediately, but it was futile due to the severity of the shock. The other man went to a phone and called a doctor. Haag, however, was beyond medical aid.



### HELP YOURSELF !

This is just a reminder that all material appearing in the REA LINEMAN is available for use in publications issued by REA systems.

BEWARE OF POISON IVY !  
HERE ARE SOME THOUGHTS  
ON AVOIDING AND TREATING IT

This is a story of poison ivy which many consider merely a nuisance, but which, in reality, can be very serious. These thoughts from Farmer's Bulletin No. 1166, U. S. Department of Agriculture, should prove helpful:

"Many persons obtain their first acquaintance with poison ivy or its relative, poison sumac, by being painfully poisoned, sometimes as the result of collecting the foliage for ornamental purposes, not knowing its poisonous character.

"In many localities, poison ivy grows so abundantly as to discourage attempts to destroy it. Even where the plant is less abundant, cases of accidental poisoning must be expected. The very large number of these cases, however, could be greatly reduced if simple means of recognizing the plants, of avoiding poisoning by them, and of destroying them were more generally understood.

"As a preventive measure, thorough washing is recommended, since the poison usually requires some time to penetrate into the tender layers of the skin, and until such penetration has taken place much or all of the poison can be removed. Ordinary alkaline kitchen soap is best for this purpose. A thick lather should be produced and the washing repeated several times, in running water if practicable. Solutions of certain salts of iron have also been found useful as preventives.

"Methods of destroying poison-ivy plants include spraying with salt brine (3 pounds of salt to a gallon of water), repeated several times if found necessary, pulling by hand or grubbing out small areas, and (in fields) plowing followed by the cultivation of hoed crops.

"Poison sumac usually occurs in swampy, inaccessible locations where the expense of eradication is not warranted. When it grows along the edges of paths or roads or in frequented places it can be killed by thorough grubbing or by applying dry salt or other weed-killing chemicals around the base of the plants."

TOXICODENDRON RADICANS

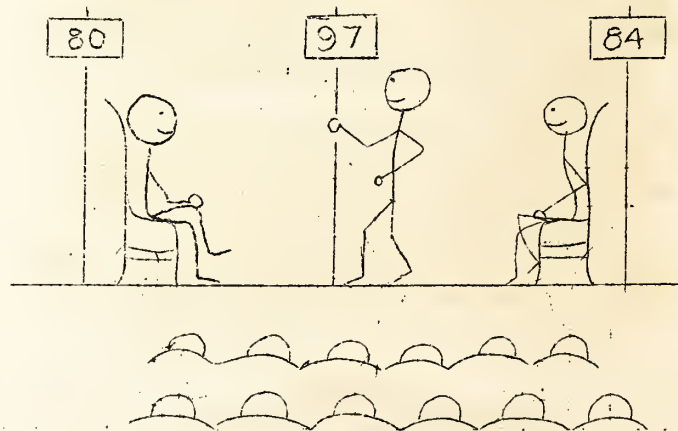


---But it is really only poison ivy.

KATHRYN HARRIS, REA FIELD GIRL,  
ATTENDS SAFETY MEETING IN TEXAS

Kathryn Harris, REA Home Electrification Specialist, is safety-minded. In a letter to REA LINEMAN, she says:

"I attended one of the first meetings held by superintendents, linemen



and employees on three Texas systems, for the purpose of organizing a safety program. Orville Couch, Alvis Yarbrought and Tom Lenore, superintendents of Texas 80 Colingsworth, 97 Childress, and 84 Hall, respectively, called the meeting and notified me of it.

"They have organized and have made plans to have instruction given them in first aid and life saving by the State Highway representative at Childress. Special attention will be given to the necessary precautions and practices for linework on our systems."



SAFETY GROUP IN ILLINOIS  
HEARS NEW REA SAFETY MAN  
ADDRESS CONSTRUCTION CREW

This is the story of how employees of the Menard co-op of Petersburg, Ill. and other interested parties joined in a first-aid and accident prevention class, conducted by Ben F. Snively. The principal speakers were Sgt. Richard Sherman, of the Traffic division, Illinois Highway Police and T. L. Davenport, REA Safety Engineer.

Sherman stressed the importance of courtesy on the road by all drivers as essential to the prevention of accidents on the highway. He said that courtesy, good judgement and common sense, if observed by all driv-

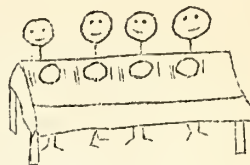
ers, would eliminate the majority of accidents. He emphasized that driving a car, truck or bus is a full time job and that all drivers should feel their responsibility. Sherman states that all motor vehicles operators should be defense drivers, and for safe motoring make every effort to observe all Safety Rules in Driving, for "accidents just don't happen; there is always a cause."

T. L. Davenport, newly-appointed REA Safety Engineer, spoke on "Personal Individual Responsibility in Regard to a Definite Safety Program for Everyone."

Davenport interspersed his talk with facts pertaining to Safety on the High line, stressing these facts with word pictures of actual happenings to illustrate them.

His talk was principally addressed to the large group of White City Electric Company employees present. This group is now constructing the new REA high line spurs in this and adjoining counties. Davenport stressed the part that each member present should realize that there is no responsibility more important than becoming Safety Minded.

Following Mr. Davenport's informative discussion a special demonstration was given of a resuscitator-inhalator.



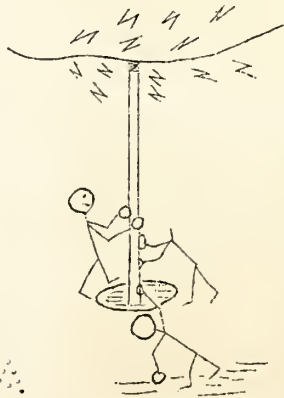
REA WILL HAVE LUNCHEON AT  
SAFETY CONGRESS OCTOBER 9

There will be a special REA luncheon as part of the National Safety Congress to be held in Chicago October 9. At this luncheon, safety problems, especially as they apply to REA co-ops, will be discussed. A high REA official will be the principal speaker.

REA HAS NOT OK'D  
ANY FENCE CONTROLLER

This is just a reminder that REA has not offered or approved any fence controller.

No REA system should permit any fence controller to be connected to its lines unless it is definitely known that the controller and the installation of the electric fence is in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code.

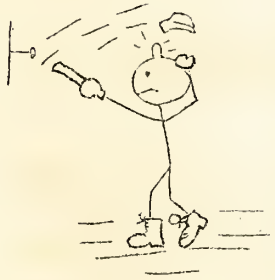


THREE MEN  
ELECTROCUTED

Short Gap, W. Va.--  
Three men were electrocuted near here recently when a pipe they pulled from a well came in contact with a high voltage wire serving a farm.

"TOOLS CAN'T THINK,"  
SAYS EXPERT, URGING ACCIDENT PREVENTION

"Tools Can't Think" is the attractive title of an article in the current National Safety News by Roland P. Blake, senior safety engineer, Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor. Mr. Blake's thesis is that tools, suited to the work, kept in serviceable condition, and used correctly are seldom involved in accidents." Mr. Blake observes: "The man who must do most of the job of prevention is the man who used the tool. Assuming that he has been properly trained in his job, he knows the tool best



suited to the job. No one is in a better position to watch the condition of the equipment and it is up to him to turn it in whenever repairs are needed. His methods of work are largely up to him."

"Mr. Blake then points out that management should not be relieved of the responsibility of providing safe, serviceable tools, and continues:

"Management must plan and direct--workmen must fill in the details. That the men must cooperate is true of all safety work, but it applies with special emphasis to the use of hand tools.

"In most industries, hand tool injuries are fourth in number. Most numerous are the injuries from handling materials. Machinery injuries and falls are usually both ahead of hand tool mishaps." Of defective tools, Mr. Blake states:

"They do more than cause accidents--they have a bad psychological effect on the men who use them. A careless attitude toward tools means a careless attitude toward safety generally. It means, too, an indifferent attitude toward workmanship. That strikes directly at profits. So poor maintenance is a symptom of poor management as well as lack of safety-mindedness."

CO-OP CONGRATULATES MEMBER  
WHO WARNED OF FALLEN WIRE

Illinois 39 Fulton has passed the following resolution congratulating a member, R. H. Pierce, for standing guard over a fallen wire during a storm and warning passers-by:

"RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of SPOON RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. shall express through a proper resolution, the sincere appreciation of the Directors and the entire organization to MR. R. H. PIERCE, for the thoughtfulness and spirit of service as well as the concern evidenced by his actions on May 13, 1941, for the welfare of the Co-operative of which he is a member, and his fellowmen.



"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to MR. R. H. PIERCE expressing the appreciation of this Board and of the Membership of the Co-operative for the service which he performed on May 13, 1941 when he stood guard for a considerable period of time to keep persons or animals from coming in contact with a wire from the Co-operative lines which had been broken through storm damage."

HE LIKES REA LINEMAN  
AND WANTS MORE COPIES

R. H. Foster, construction superintendent, writing from the Norris Rural Public Power District, says that "we get a lot of good out of the REA Lineman, but we do not receive nearly enough copies." He adds:

"We have a very large project and have 8 linemen employed. It would be appreciated if we could get 10 copies of the REA Lineman each month. Personally, I think the REA Lineman is just one hell (editor's note--tut) of a good thing to send to all of the linemen.

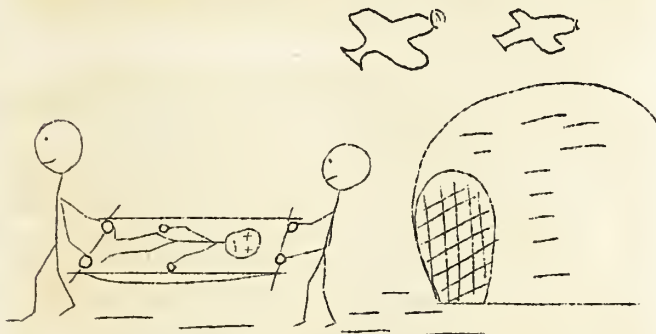
"We are very proud to report that we have not had a lost time accident this year."



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT TELLS  
VALUE OF FIRST AID TRAINING  
AMONG LAYMEN IN BOMBED AREAS

First aid training as a measure of preparedness is everywhere recognized. This is especially true in Europe.

A foreign correspondent who has just returned to this country, told the National Safety Council that first aid training among laymen had contributed greatly to a reduction in the number of



deaths in bombed areas -- where disasters occurred among civilian populations, and the services of the physicians, already taxed to the utmost, were not immediately available. Commenting on this, the Public Utilities Section of the National Safety Council states:

"Outstanding on this proving ground of First Aid was the use of artificial respiration and the resuscitation of asphyxiated victims. This foreign correspondent told of countless persons removed from bomb shelters that had been struck by aerial bombs -- victims suffocated in cave-ins or overcome by smoke and fumes. He spoke of the untiring efforts of the trained laymen whose bravery under fire overshadowed the awesomeness of the bombing. Of paramount importance was the fact that civilian fatalities were remarkably small in comparison to the terrific amount of property damage done.

"We, as an industry, may take our cue from one who has seen and heard. At present in this country, utilities are leading the way in the matter of First Aid training. Utility company employees, acting as trained instructors, far outnumber those of any other industry. And yet, the surface has hardly been touched and a great deal more, a vast amount more, can be done before we may feel assured that we are prepared."

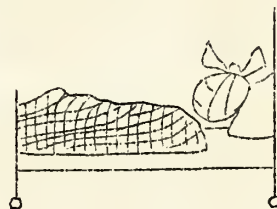
FALSE SECURITY

By JOHN A. LAPP  
REA Labor Adviser

I have seen poster advertisements of men going blithely into danger with the assurance to their loved ones that they are insured against accident and death. This is false security. Insurance does not and cannot compensate

even for the economic losses to an injured person.

In practically every state where the REA operates, there is a workmen's compensation act for industrial accidents.



These acts usually provide for a part of the wages of an injured workman during disability and the cost of medical and hospital care. They are a measure of justice to injured workers, but they do not remove, even the major part of the burden thrown upon workers by accidents.

In the first place, the compensation is not one half the wage, and the maximum in any case is generally \$18 to \$20 a week. The pay stops at thirteen or twenty-six weeks in some states. The cost of medical care is usually much greater than is provided for by insurance. A permanently crippled person may draw a small compensation over a long period, but only a fraction of his loss. Of course, the extra expense to families is not borne by the insurance. And most of all, the burden of pain and suffering cannot be shifted from the individual.

Compensation is a shock absorber not a carryall. It should never cause anyone to take a chance. It should instead be a promoter of safety. Workmen should know their rights under the compensation laws and use their knowledge to bring home to themselves, lessons of safety to protect their economic position.

WOULD'ST BE A HERO?  
HERE'S HOW TO WIN  
LIFE-SAVING MEDAL

Quite a few systems have written to the REA LINEMAN asking for details concerning the "President's Medal," which we are glad to supply.

The "President's Medal" is awarded by the National Safety Council as a fitting recognition for those who successfully resuscitate by the Schafer Prone Pressure Method.

It is given in cases of electrical shock, gas asphyxiation, drowning or other accidental causes of suspended respiration.

On the face of the medal in bas-relief appears a symbolic design which has its origin in Greek mythology. The three Goddesses of fate, Clotho who spins the thread of life; Lachesis, who determines its length and Atropos who cuts the thread of life work under the watchful scrutiny of a figure symbolic of safety. The following lines briefly interpret the symbolism of the three Goddesses of fate:

"Spin, Clotho, spin  
Lachesis measure  
Atropos sever  
Forever and ever"

The figure of Safety stays the hand that would cut the thread of life. Engraved on the reverse side of the medal is the citation showing the name of the recipient, the date of the resuscitation and the name of the person resuscitated.

Any person over ten years of age is eligible to receive the award, excepting those who are qualified to receive the Medal Award of the Edison Electric Institute, or the McCarter Medal awarded by the American Gas Association.

The National Safety Council determined upon this method of recognition in May, 1928 and the first awards were made in September. It was felt a fitting way to properly recognize heroic work in the saving of human lives.

A nation-wide reporting service is maintained through the Executive offices of the Council. As reports come in each is carefully checked and a complete record is made of each case.

When full information, backed by proper affidavit, is secured it is presented to the Executive Committee of the Council for final consideration and approval of the award.

To March 17, 1941 - there were 1097 medals and 39 bars approved. It is an interesting fact that a number of these awards have been made to women.

Some learned the Schafer Prone Pressure System in the course of employment; as telephone operators and as office workers in a power company. There have been several successful resuscitations by Boy Scouts.

It may be of interest to know that among the approvals which have been made to date the youngest victim was two years of age while the oldest was ninety. It is also of interest to note that the elapsed time between the accident and the start of resuscitation in these cases has varied from one minute to 35 minutes, the latter being a gas case occurring in a home.

The actual time necessary to continue resuscitation efforts before signs of life appear vary considerably as shown by the awards. Some of the victims are resuscitated within 5 minutes while others have to be worked upon for over an hour. "Never give up hope" is a good slogan for the life work. Victims have been restored to life after nearly four hours work. In fact, there was a recent case reported in the west where resuscitation was continued for eight hours and with successful results. As far as known, this is the most unusual case reported.

As one might imagine, most cases are carbon monoxide and other gas fume cases; others are suffocation cases; many are drowning cases and many are the result of contact with energized electrical equipment.

The man who originated this method of saving human lives is Professor Edward Schafer of Edinburgh University. He is a man of highest educational and scientific attainments. He has received the Daly Medal of the College of Physicians, the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, and the Distinguished Service Medal of the Royal Life Saving Society. His latest recognition came in the form of an honorary degree from Oxford University.